

# Connection

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## Remembering Former President Don Garrison

“The world is a little colder and a little darker since last Saturday,” former Palmetto High Mustang Ken Ross somberly stated in his eulogy at the funeral of former Tri-County Technical College President Don C. Garrison, who died Saturday, February 27, at the age of 75.

Dr. Garrison, who served as president from 1971 until his retirement in 2003, suffered a massive stroke Thursday, February 25, and was transported to Greenville Memorial Hospital where he died in the early morning hours of February 27. He is survived by Carol, his wife of almost 50 years; a son Donnie R. Garrison and his wife, Cheryl, and grandsons, Bolt and Bryant Garrison; his mother, Vera M. Garrison; two brothers, David Garrison and wife, Ruth; and Dan Garrison and wife Linda.

Hundreds of family members, friends, and Tri-County faculty and staff attended the service, which paid tribute to a man who devoted his entire professional life – more than four decades – to education in South Carolina.

From the time he assumed the presidency at Tri-County in 1971, Dr. Garrison was a tireless advocate for technical education, and he placed Tri-County at the forefront of two-year colleges in the U.S.

The College, under Dr. Garrison’s leadership, is often recognized for its contributions to economic development and for attracting international industry to the tri-county area.

“I loved Don Garrison,” began Ross. “If I learned anything from him, it is to be passionate. Be caring and forgiving. Be appreciative. Be grateful. Be like Don Garrison,” said an emotional Ross as he recalled his days as a teenage football player for the Palmetto Mustangs coached by Dr. Garrison in the 1960’s.

“He demanded that we work hard to achieve his vision of us being winners. His intensity was legendary, and he was a tremendous motivator. He gave us the confidence to believe that we could be better than we thought possible. He ignited a force in me that I’m still amazed at,” said Ross.

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*Dr. Don C. Garrison*

A memorial service will be held in the Marshall Parker Auditorium in Oconee Hall on Thursday, May 6, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. to honor the life and work of Dr. Garrison.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Awards Ceremony .....	April 26
Spring Open .....	April 30
Spring Convocation .....	May 5
Memorial Service for Dr. Don Garrison.....	May 6
QuickJobs Dedication .....	May 7
Spring Graduation .....	May 11
Tri-County Road Race (5K).....	May 29

**Check the College Activities Calendar in eTC for additional activities and events.**

## Connection

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Tri-County Technical College does not discriminate in admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, qualifying disability, veteran's status, or national origin.

## Connecting

This month marks the three-year anniversary of the opening of our Anderson Campus. I am enormously proud of our progress to date. Everything is falling into place and the numbers really tell the story.

**This past fall, we had an overall enrollment increase of 49% at the Anderson Campus over the previous Fall Semester.** We also had a 94% increase in the number of students taking courses *only* at the Anderson campus, which is directly related to our concerted effort to add more sections in more majors. In addition, we experienced a 79% increase in the number of students enrolled in a combination of online and Anderson Campus classes.

We reached a milestone when we began offering the complete Associate in Arts degree at the Anderson Campus this spring, and we are set to begin offering the complete Associate in Science degree this fall. A cooperative agreement with the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus enabled us to begin offering certificates in Automotive Technology, with the full degree program slated to begin this fall. While these classes are not yet housed at our campus, they are part of our Anderson area offerings and our long-term goal is to develop a comprehensive transportation program to be located on the campus.

If you had told me three years ago that we would be nearly at maximum capacity today, I wouldn't have believed you. To maximize our scheduling patterns, we will begin offering Friday-only classes this fall, which is being piloted by the Criminal Justice Technology program this spring with great success. Additionally, we are reconfiguring some of our larger classrooms to enable us to create additional instructional spaces and a new computer lab. Even office space is at a premium, so we are renovating some areas to make room for new faculty.

These efforts give us the potential to open 70 new credit course sections within the existing building footprint, which equates to approximately 1,500 additional seats in classrooms. At a time when we are experiencing record-breaking enrollment, the additional capacity is desperately needed.

We also are making great progress in offering comprehensive enrollment services to students. The small-group orientation program is now available, just as it is on the Pendleton campus. This is the final component of the "8 Steps to Enrollment," and we are pleased to report that students can now complete all eight steps at the Anderson Campus. Additionally, three new faculty members help us round out our advising services.

The Corporate and Community Education Division has a healthy presence at the Anderson Campus, offering a variety of personal and professional development classes, as well as industry training programs. Recently, we moved all of our transportation-related programs to the Anderson Campus and, as I mentioned earlier, have plans to expand our offerings.

Community input is vital to ensuring we are providing the programs and services most needed in the area. To help us make good decisions, we formed an external advisory committee that includes representatives from Anderson School District Five, city and county governments, the YMCA, Duke Energy, Anderson Restaurant Group, Lakeside Steel, United Way, and more. These community leaders help us set our direction.

*(continued on page 9)*



**Ronnie L. Booth**  
President



# Spotlight on Bluegrass under the Stars

Josh Williams, the recipient of the International Bluegrass Music Association's Guitar Player of the Year honor for 2008 and 2009, will headline the College's Fifth Annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert.

The College and community are invited to attend Bluegrass under the Stars, a free concert and fireworks event for the family set for Saturday, April 3, from 6-9:30 p.m. in the amphitheater on the Pendleton Campus. It will be held rain or shine. (Rain location is the College's Student Center.)

In addition to The Josh Williams Band, the concert will feature The Little Roy and Lizzy Show, Last Road, and Mountain Faith.

The concert will end with a fireworks extravaganza.

Concessions will be sold during the event.

Clemson Area Transit (CAT) is the event's Champion sponsor. Other community sponsors to date include Blue Ridge Electric Co-op, The Villages at Town Creek, LLC, Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce/Pendleton Area Council, American Services, Commercial Bank, Danny and Mary Johnston, Ken Rowland – State Farm Insurance Agency, and Tri-County ACE Builders Supply. In-kind sponsors are S. K. Busby's Nursery and Garden Center and Subway of Pendleton.

Several of Tri-County's academic departments will offer information and fun activities for concert-goers. For additional information, check the Featured Events link in eTC.



## THE JOSH WILLIAMS BAND

Josh Williams, who gained attention working with Special Consensus and later Rhonda Vincent's The Rage, formed his own group in 2008. With Williams on guitar and vocals, band members include Randy Barnes on bass and vocals and Jason McKendree on banjo and vocals.

In 2008, Josh received his fourth consecutive "Guitar Performer of the Year" award from the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America.



## LAST ROAD

Last Road is a South Carolina-based group that plays a wide selection of traditional, contemporary and gospel bluegrass music. Their music combines the influences of first-

generation performers like Flatt and Scruggs and Bill Monroe with more recent acts such as Mountain Heart and Ricky Skaggs. Dave Snyder formed Last Road in the early 1990's and plays mandolin. Rounding out the band are Brian Baker on bass and vocals, Benji Merritt on guitar and vocals, and Mike Crane on banjo.



## THE LITTLE ROY AND LIZZY SHOW

Elizabeth Long, or Lizzy, has mastered the piano, the fiddle, banjo, resonator and bass banjos, guitar, autoharp, bass fiddle, mandolin, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and drums. She paired up with Little Roy Lewis from the legendary Lewis Family in 2007.

Roy Lewis and his famous family, known as "America's First Family of Bluegrass Gospel Music," were inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) Hall of Honor.

The Little Roy and Lizzy Show received a 2010 Dove Award nomination for Bluegrass Recorded Song of the Year, "When We Fly."



## MOUNTAIN FAITH

Mountain Faith was founded for the purpose of using bluegrass music to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Its name was chosen because of their regional heritage of

the Blue Ridge Mountains and because of their spiritual heritage based upon Mt. Calvary. Members include Samuel Ray McMahan, leader of the group, on bass fiddle; Summer McMahan, on fiddle, mandolin, and vocals; Brayden McMahan on banjo, fiddle, and vocals; and John Robert Morgan on guitar and vocals.

SPOTLIGHT is a regular feature of CONNECTION that highlights College instructional programs, activities, and support services. Surveys show that our own faculty and staff play a significant role in influencing potential students to apply to the College. We're all ambassadors – so stay informed and keep doing a great job spreading the word that Tri-County is a great place to learn and grow!



**Leigh Colombo**, curriculum coordinator for Enrollment Management, wrote a note praising English Department Head **Robin McFall** for her kindness and generosity toward a student whose family lost everything, including her textbooks, in a house fire. The student was taking college-level ENG 102 this spring at her high school through Tri-County's dual enrollment program. Leigh learned of the family's loss from a guidance counselor, who asked if there was any type of help to get this student another set of books for her English 102 class.

"The student was having to borrow a book from a friend who also was taking the class, and it had become hard to keep up with all the reading for both girls because they were sharing one set of books," wrote Leigh. "I came back to the campus and called Robin McFall to find out if there was any type of grant, scholarship, foundation assistance, etc. that would help her in this situation. Robin said that she would be happy to give the student HER textbook and lend HER personal copies of the novels needed. Robin doesn't seem to think it is out of the ordinary to do that, but not everyone is as generous as she was! I want to express the student's, Pendleton High School's, and my gratefulness to Robin for showing what a caring and supportive faculty our students are fortunate to have!"

**Faye Allen** sent this note:

When the College suffered major budget cuts last year, a decision was made to eliminate the cost of having an interior plant provider and maintenance contract.

**Jan Kempinski** noticed the droopy greenery beside the stairs at the circular drive entrance to the Ruby Hicks Library/Administration Building and took it upon herself to nurture them back to life. She has quietly continued their care for more than a year. Many thanks to Jan for her efforts to beautify our campus for the many employees and visitors who enter through that doorway each day.

If you wish to thank someone publicly, share personal news, brag about a recent accomplishment in your unit, or any other highlight, send it in for our "Brag & Share" column. E-mail your submission (65 words or less) with "Brag & Share" in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.

# Our College Family

## excellence through service

**Etta Smith**, WIA services specialist in the Gateway to College office, graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Limestone College December 12, 2009. She is pictured with her two grandchildren, Cam'ryn, left, and Devyn, who traveled from Newport News, Virginia, to attend the ceremony.



Etta Smith with grandchildren

**Dr. Jerry Marshall**, our math department head and International Technology Education Association (ITEA) initiate, and Dr. Bill Havice, distinguished technology educator at Clemson University, spoke at the 72nd annual conference of the ITEA held March 20 in Charlotte, NC. The theme of the conference was "Green Technology: STEM Solutions for 21st Century Citizens!" Their presentation addressed "Building Partnerships for Future Research: A STEM Initiative Case Study."

Jerry shared recent Upstate South Carolina STEM education activities, including two summer symposia, which were guided by experts from the ITEA STEM Center for Teaching and Learning. Bill discussed the difference between technology and science and the difference between technology education and educational technology.

## in transition

### STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

**Janet Brdar** is the new Administrative Assistant for TRiO. For the last two years, Janet worked as a secretary for a private school in Belton. Prior to that she was an English trainer in Germany for three years and has worked as a substitute teacher. She served in the U.S. Army from 1987 – 90. She holds a B. S. in Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She will receive her associate degree in Accounting from Tri-County in May.

She is a Sunday School Teacher and Assistant Treasurer at Fellowship Baptist Church. She and her husband, Milo, have two daughters, Larissa, 17, and Marlana, 15. They live in Anderson.



Janet Brdar

**Wanda Marshall** joined the Financial Aid team as a Counselor/VA Coordinator in February. For the last 16 years, she worked as a Financial Aid Counselor at Southern Wesleyan University (SWU). She has a B.S. in Business Administration and a master of science in Management from SWU. She also has an Office Systems Technology degree from Tri-County. She is a member of Snow Hill Baptist Church in Fair Play and has served as president of the Seneca River Young Woman's Auxiliary since 2007.

She has a daughter Tasmine, 20, and a granddaughter Kyla, 5. Wanda lives in Central.



Wanda Marshall

(continued on page 10)

## Dr. Don C. Garrison *(continued from page 1)*

“Don Garrison was born to lead,” said best friend and former colleague Dr. Tom Barton, retired president of Greenville Technical College. “He was a natural leader and people gravitated to him. He could easily inspire and he cared for people. If you could bottle Don’s enthusiasm, you could get rich quick. You had to get up early and stay late to outwork Don Garrison,” said Dr. Barton, who met him in the 50’s and later hired him at Greenville Tech where from 1963 - 71 he served as dean of Allied Health Sciences and Evening Dean and the last two years as Interim President. “He did things his way. Everything he did came from his heart.”

Dr. Garrison began his career as Tri-County’s second president on November 1, 1971. He led the College from a technical education center offering seven technical courses to a comprehensive two-year college featuring 20 associate degree, 8 diploma, and 37 certificate programs.

His leadership in community college and technical education was recognized numerous times with local, state, and national honors. One of his most coveted awards came in 1983 when he was named President of the Year by the American Association of Community College trustees (the premier association representing more than 1200 community and technical colleges).

His many state and national honors in his career included the Air Force Association’s Medal of Merit in 1984 and the Order of the Palmetto, the highest award presented by the State of SC and its governor, in 1988. He was recognized by his technical college



**Dr. Garrison** is pictured with wife, **Carol**, left, and son, **Donnie**, and daughter-in-law, **Cheryl**, at an annual report luncheon.

peers for outstanding leadership through the prestigious A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award, the highest honor bestowed upon System employees by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.

The Tri-County Technical College Commission saluted Dr. Garrison before his retirement by naming the campus in his honor.

## Faculty, Staff Fondly Remember Dr. Garrison

“In his final commencement speech in 2003, Dr. Garrison told the graduates, ‘The key to success in life is attaching yourself to a cause that is greater than yourself.’ That’s exactly what Dr. Garrison did – he ‘walked the talk’ and devoted his life and career to the cause of providing accessible, affordable, relevant, and quality educational options for the residents of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. When Dr. Garrison retired, he said, ‘I truly believe that Tri-County Technical College’s best days are yet to come.’ That may be true, but it never would have been possible without the solid foundation he laid for us.”

*President Ronnie Booth*

“Dr. Garrison occasionally had to make some difficult decisions about employees’ lives. Some people would be surprised how difficult this was for him because of his tough-guy persona, but I know he really agonized over decisions he had to make. He was more of a big teddy bear with a soft spot for others than a lot of people knew.”

*Glenn Hellenka, director of Career Services*

“There are a couple of special memories I have of Dr. Garrison. When I was working and taking Master’s classes at night, Dr. Garrison always asked about my studies and encouraged me to continue. Another memory was when a special friend was killed in a car wreck. Instead of just sending a card, Dr. Garrison came to my office, gave me a hug, and

talked to me about the grieving process. He was a compassionate man with a huge heart.

He also had a good sense of humor because I dressed up like him (bald wig, light blue suit, and all) and performed a dialogue pretending to be him during his retirement luncheon. He didn’t fire me!”

*Faye Allen, director of Fiscal Affairs*

“Dr. Garrison was not only president of Tri-County Technical College; he was a friend. I was editor of the newspaper when I was a student at Tri-County, and if he saw my office door open he always stopped by to say hello and to see how things were going.”

*Dana Griffith, English instructor, alumna of RTV program and first president of the Alumni Association*

“Dr. Garrison was totally committed to the College. He had incredible enthusiasm for Tri-County on a daily basis – whether it was while attending a student function, meeting with an economic development prospect, or just talking to you one-on-one. Often he would call me after meeting someone whose child or grandchild wanted to go to school. He would take it upon himself to make sure the person got the information he or she needed and always would follow up on the student’s progress. Dr. Garrison didn’t forget anybody.”

*Butch Merritt, admissions counselor*

# Golden OPPORTUNITIES to shape the future

## \$50,000 Donation from AT&T Supports Center For Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

The College recently received additional support from the local business community with a \$50,000 gift from AT&T. The contribution to the College's major gift campaign will be used to support small businesses through the College's Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.

The donation goes towards the College's goal to raise \$9 million in cash and pledges over the next five years to position the College to be more responsive to community needs. Funds raised through the major gifts campaign will help the College to advance its strategic missions, which include promoting economic and community development.

"The promotion of economic and community development within the three counties is at the heart of Tri-County Technical College's mission," said Dr. Booth. "We have been working collaboratively with the Oconee County Economic Development office and Rep. Bill Sandifer to support small business. Our Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development is a way for people to turn ideas into businesses," he said.

"Rep. Sandifer's efforts to help small business are appreciated," said Jim Alexander, director of Economic Development for Oconee County. "We talk with him frequently and appreciate his support of economic development, as well as small businesses and entrepreneurship. Working together we can accomplish good things for everyone."

"Through Rep. Sandifer's positive public policy leadership, he has helped create opportunities for our Foundation to help start-up businesses and for us to make an investment in the economic future of the area," said Dr. Booth. "It is gratifying as well to see businesses like AT&T join us in support of the successful associations we have



AT&T made a \$50,000 donation to support economic and community development, one of the four initiatives of the Foundation's Major Gifts Campaign. The money will be used to support small businesses through the College's Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. Many thanks to **Rep. Bill Sandifer**, seated, middle, who has worked tirelessly on supporting economic development with **Jim Alexander**, director of Economic Development for Oconee County, seated, right, and in support of small businesses and entrepreneurship. Pictured with them are **Dr. Booth**, seated, left, and **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement, standing.

with Tri-County Technical College and South Carolina's political leaders," he added.

AT&T's donation will support classes, workshops, and seminars on entrepreneurship and small business development; referral services for grants and other small business funding; and a small business incubator.

## Walhalla, New Covenant Students Win Writing Honors

Students from Walhalla High and New Covenant schools took first-place honors in the poetry and short story categories at the College's Ruby S. Hicks Memorial Writing Contest Awards Ceremony.

The event, held March 8, recognizes the creative writing abilities of area high school students.

Since 1986, the event has recognized the creative writing abilities of area high school students. Several years ago, the English Department renamed its annual writing contest to honor the late Ruby S. Hicks for

*Emily Spearman, a sophomore at New Covenant, won first place in the short story category. Pictured with her is Lori Ramey, her English teacher.*



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# \$100,000 Grant from AdvanceSC Will Purchase Equipment for Tri-County's QuickJobs Training Centers

A \$100,000 grant from AdvanceSC will allow Tri-County to purchase equipment necessary to teach basic skills training classes at its QuickJobs Training Centers in Oconee and Pickens counties, and at the Senator Billy O'Dell Learning Center at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path.

Oconee and Pickens counties received \$986,364 each from the State Department of Commerce last year to build QuickJobs Development Centers to assist in workforce training and skills development. The scheduled completion date for the Oconee QuickJobs Center, located at the Hamilton Career Center, is April 1, with a dedication ceremony planned for May 7. The 4,600-square-foot building has two classrooms and a large space for labs (welding and electrical classes). The Easley QuickJobs Center is currently under construction.

The AdvanceSC grant will purchase equipment for HVAC and mechatronics classes, in addition to electrical wiring, plumbing, construction, residential inspector, and general contractor classes.

TTI in Anderson has donated drills, saws, grinders and other equipment needed for these classes.

The Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division already has seven classes scheduled for opening month. Most of them are Certified Production Technician – MSSC training, said Rick Cothran, dean of the Corporate and Community Education Division. A pre-employment training class for an organization in Oconee County is also lined up, as are Workplace Skills classes. Other classes to follow include industrial/maintenance, truck driving, construction, computer, and health care.

"Companies no longer have the luxury of on-the-job training programs," said Rick. "They expect employees to arrive on the job with entry-level skills. But S.C. employers are facing significant difficulties in matching required skill sets with their



Exterior and classroom in Oconee QuickJobs Center



Easley QuickJobs Center

workforce needs. Our economic development and economic growth will be impacted by these QuickJobs Centers because we can quickly train large numbers of employees or potential employees on short notice, and give industry a good pool of applicants for the hiring process," said Rick.

## Writing Honors *(continued from page 6)*

her patronage, her encouragement, and her friendship. For years, Mrs. Hicks graciously donated funds and encouraged the College to continue recognizing the creative talents of area high school students with an annual contest. Donors to Tri-County Technical College's Foundation provide for the cash awards.

Walhalla High School students **Michael McFadden**, left, and **Jeanna Martin** won awards at the College's Ruby S. Hicks Memorial Writing Contest Awards Ceremony. Michael won first place in the poetry category, and Jeanna received an honorable mention for the short story category. They are pictured with **Robin McFall**, right, English department head at Tri-County.



# Kalleys Find Perfect Pet through Vet Tech's Adoption

Every time Joan Kalley walked down to the College's Veterinary Technology department this semester to view the animals, who later would be up for adoption, she told herself she was just visiting. That is, until she laid eyes on Sadie, a black and white dog who was rescued by Oconee County Animal Control officers after a man whose truck broke down heard her yelping and discovered her stuck between two limbs of a tree in a wooded area. She probably had been trapped and wedged between the branches for several days. She was thin and traumatized; one leg was trapped, bleeding and cut to the bone. The animal control officers, who had to cut the branches to get her out of the tree, suspected she recently had given birth to a litter of puppies that were never found. Dr. Andy Holland of Walhalla generously donated his time to repair her leg.



*Joan and Bruce Kalley with Sadie*

Sadie, or Mersadies Elizabeth, is among the animals obtained from area animal shelters and cared for by students during the semester as part of our Veterinary Technology program.

"I periodically go down to Veterinary Technology to give the animals looks and love," said Joan, an English instructor. "I truly just went down there to visit with the animals that were up for adoption and to talk with the students," she said. "That day I only looked at Sadie, and thought 'she's mine.' When I heard her story of being rescued and later coming to Vet Tech for the semester, I knew she was ours," she added.

**Dogs and cats will be available for adoption Wednesday, April 21, from 2 – 6 p.m. in Halbert Hall on Tri-County's Pendleton campus. All animals are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped for permanent identification. The adoption fee is \$45, payable at the time of adoption.**

There had been a real void in the Kalley's life since the death of their beloved 16-year-old German Shepherd, who was euthanized two years ago this June. She went home and told her husband, Bruce, about Sadie's experience, and they decided to add Sadie to their Pendleton home.

"The Kalleys are just the right people to adopt Sadie," said Dr. Peggy Champion, Vet Tech department head. "Sadie is the perfect dog for them. I'm so glad this particular couple is taking her. It's a match made in heaven. She will bring as much to them as they are bringing to her," said Dr. Champion.

"Sadie is one of those touch-your-heart learning experiences for our students," said Dr. Champion. "She came to the Oconee Animal Shelter in the most horrible state. The employees and Dr. Holland are examples of the tender loving care given to the pets at the shelter."

The Kalleys are longtime supporters of the Veterinary Technology program through word of mouth and donations to the Foundation's "PAWS for a Cause" campaign, which allows individuals to purchase a dog paw, a cat paw, or a horseshoe in memory or in honor of a beloved pet. Each one is personalized with the pet's name, the donor's name, and a brief message and is displayed in Halbert Hall. The cost is \$50 per paw. The monies raised through "PAWS for a Cause" will one day be used toward the cost of expanding Halbert Hall to better serve the animals that come to the Veterinary Technology Department through local animal shelters.



# Speech Team Wins Three First-Place Awards

Tri-County's speech team brought home three first-place awards at the 2010 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association College Festival held February 27 at Limestone College.

Three students represented Tri-County Technical College in this year's competition. Orrie Kyzer, of Central, a University Transfer student, won first place in Impromptu Interpretation, as well as first place in Impromptu

Speaking. Lily Rosas, an associate degree Nursing major from Pickens, took second place in Persuasive Speaking and third place in Oral Interpretation of Poetry. Ann Rosas, also an associate degree Nursing major from Pickens, placed first in Oral Interpretation of Poetry.

More than 50 students from six different colleges and universities from around the state participated in this year's festival. They included Tri-County Technical College, Limestone College, Lander University, Newberry College, USC Upstate, and USC Lancaster.

"These are the best overall results our students have produced in the 13 years I have served as Tri-County's forensics team coach," said Greg Toney. "I'm very proud of them. They did a fantastic job. Lily and Ann are both associate degree Nursing majors, so communicating effectively with patients, doctors, and family members in an expressive way is very important," said Greg

"Orrie placed first in the Impromptu category, which is one of the most difficult and has the largest number of participants. You have to be quick on your feet and don't have but one minute for preparation time. Winning in that category is a big deal."

"Communication skills are one of the most important skills someone can take into the workplace today," said Greg. "Competing in this annual speech and drama festival allows students to sharpen those skills, as well represent their school while competing against other colleges from around the state."

The College's Speech and Drama Team is coached by Greg Toney, Kim Harp, and Dana Griffith.

The South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association is a professional organization that promotes the study of all areas of performance and oral communication: acting, oral interpretation/performance studies, theatre, broadcasting, public speaking, discussion and debate, and speech education.



*Our speech team brought home three first-place awards at the 2010 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association College Festival held February 27 at Limestone College. **Orrie Kyzer**, of Central, a University Transfer student, left, won first place in Impromptu Interpretation, as well as first place in Impromptu Speaking. **Ann Rosas**, an associate degree Nursing major from Pickens, middle, placed first in Oral Interpretation of Poetry. **Lily Rosas**, an associate degree Nursing major from Pickens, right, took second place in Persuasive Speaking and third place in Oral Interpretation of Poetry.*

# Connecting

(continued from page 2)

As a comprehensive community college, we also want to contribute to the quality of life and community spirit in Anderson. Our new "signature event" – the Tri-County 5K race – will do just that. Scheduled for Saturday, May 29, we hope to draw runners from Anderson and beyond to enjoy the beauty of our campus and engage in the popular sport of competitive running. "Run for the Health of It" is our tagline, and proceeds will be used to support scholarships and other needs in our Health Education Division. We hope many of you will volunteer to help make this event as successful as "Bluegrass under the Stars," our signature community event on the Pendleton Campus.

Everything we have learned through the Anderson experience, along with the work of a newly constituted Easley Campus Strategy Work Group, will be used to inform the development of a comprehensive multi-campus strategy that will ultimately shape the philosophy and operations of Tri-County Technical College in all its locations.

**Let me close by saying that all the credit for our success in Anderson goes to you, our faculty and staff.** You have pushed, pulled, and stretched your current resources and staff to provide the services and instruction we need in Anderson. Thank you for your creativity and resourcefulness – and for not only making it work, but thrive beyond what I expected at this stage of operations.

Our ten-year vision states: "Our programs will be ACCESSIBLE – programs will be delivered where, when, and how our students need them." Building a strong, multi-campus institution is a step toward achieving our vision to be *the* role model in community college education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Booth".

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President

## The Aliens Named Champions at FLL Tournament



The College hosted the 2010 FLL Regional Tournament February 20 on the Pendleton campus. The Aliens from Lakeside Middle School in Anderson were named the Champions and received the most prestigious award at the event. The 13 teams, representing students from area middle schools, competed in a regional qualifying event for FIRST LEGO League teams. This year's challenge, Smart Move, focused on transforming transportation. Teams built autonomous robots, which competed in three 2 1/2 minute rounds in which they completed mini-missions to score points. Teams were judged on teamwork, robot design, and a project. A percentage of the top-ranked teams proceeded to the State Tournament in March at Littlejohn Coliseum in Clemson.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization that seeks to create a world where science and technology are celebrated similar to a sports environment.

Robert Bosch Corporation, LLC, sponsored this event.

## Entrepreneurial Advisory Committee Discusses Upcoming Events



The Entrepreneurial Advisory Committee, comprised of 28 business leaders from the three counties, met recently to brainstorm ideas for the Corporate and Community Education Division's new Entrepreneurial Program. The program's focus is to support, encourage, and strengthen small business start-ups and existing businesses to enhance economic development through networking, mentoring, and educational events. Pictured from left are **Neal Workman**, chair of Trehel Corporation; **Bob Harris**, Seneca businessman and longtime Tri-County supporter; **Jim Alexander**, director of Oconee Economic Development; **Jim Gadd**, director of Oconee Alliance; **Mike Panasko**, president of Innovate Anderson; and **Forrest Norman**, of Senior Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE).

## Our College Family *(continued from page 4)*

### BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

**Michael Hunter** joined us earlier this year as a Technical Support Technician for the Information Technology Department. Michael worked part time at the College as a Technical Support Technician from 2004 - 2007. For the last three years, he worked as a PC Technician at Fort Jackson's Moncrief Community Hospital. He holds a Computer Technology degree from Tri-County. He and his wife, Brooke, have a son, Michael Samuel Hunter, II, born November 27, 2009. They live in Easley.



Michael Hunter

**Gloria Littleton** joined the Personnel Office as a Human Resources Specialist. She spent the last nine years as a Human Resources/Safety Coordinator at Sulzer Proess Pumps in Easley. She is a member of Arial Baptist Church, where she is the keyboardist. She and her husband, James, have two adult children, Matthew Littleton and Kathy Ward. The Littletons have three grandchildren, and they live in Pickens.



Gloria Littleton

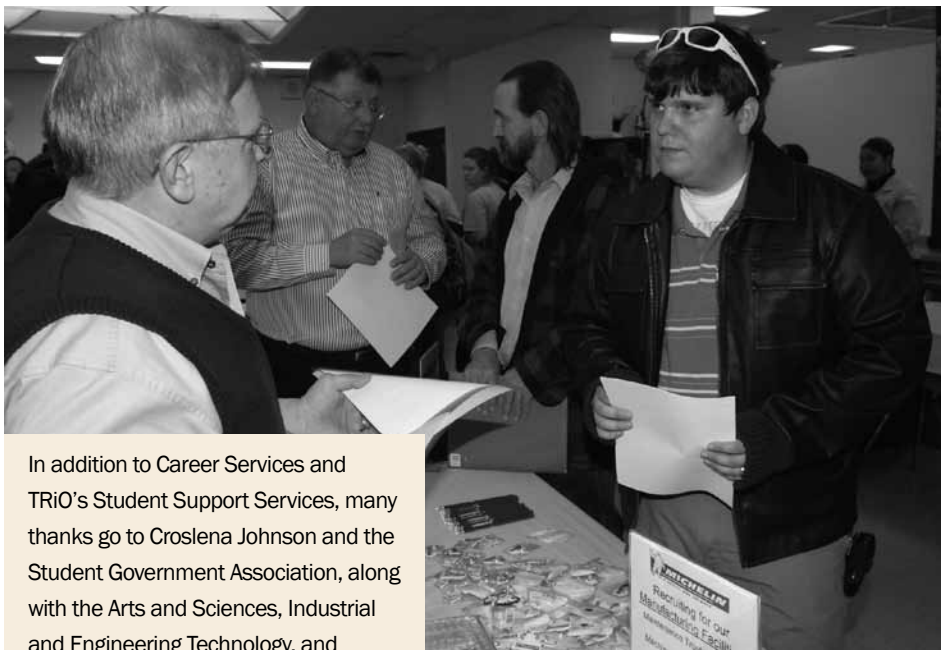
# Students Make Contacts with Colleges, Recruiters at College and Career Fair

Tri-County's 17th Annual College and Career Fair was held March 10. This year's event was a collaborative effort between TRIO's Student Support Services (SSS) program, Career Services, and the College.

The event is a prime opportunity for soon-to-be graduates and persons who are looking for employment to talk about employment opportunities with recruiters and managers and to develop a network of career contacts.



The University of Alabama was among the colleges and universities that participated in the College and Career Fair. Representatives from colleges were on hand to talk individually with students about transferring to a senior institution. Here, **Patti Dinger**, regional recruiter, talks with University Transfer majors **Jonathan Hirsch**, of Westminster, left, and **Zach Setzer**, of Central.



In addition to Career Services and TRIO's Student Support Services, many thanks go to Croslena Johnson and the Student Government Association, along with the Arts and Sciences, Industrial and Engineering Technology, and Business and Public Services Divisions for their support. Appreciation also is extended to the Maintenance and Campus Safety departments.

**Michael Oates**, a Belton resident and Industrial Electronics Technology major, right, talks with **Bob Clardy**, who works in technical recruiting for Michelin North America in Greenville.

## Executive Staff Updates

- Collaboration with Clemson University:** Leaders from both institutions will meet to discuss collaborative opportunities on a broad scale, including articulation, Bridge to Clemson, and shared technology and infrastructure.
- Easley Campus Update:** Construction is on schedule. The Easley Campus Strategy workgroup will provide recommendations for start-up and operations. The recommendations also will inform a more comprehensive multi-campus strategy for the College.
- Social Aspects and Persistence:** Dr. Vinson Burdette, dean of Student Development, provided an overview of his doctoral research on social aspects and persistence of students enrolled at the College.
- Staff Development for Executive Staff:** The Executive Staff will participate in a workshop based on "The Speed of Trust," a book written by Stephen M. R. Covey.
- Expanding Capacity:** In an effort to alleviate parking problems on the Pendleton campus, the credit divisions will implement a plan to reduce the number of classroom seats available during the morning hours. Those seats will be shifted to later classes and/or new course sections.
- Strategic Planning:** Work continues on the development of a three-year strategic plan aligned with the College's new ten-year vision.
- Other Topics:** Differential tuition model, potential legislation impacting dual enrollment policies, the State budget, social networking.

# Open House Offers Something for Everyone

Around 416 prospective students, including high school students and their parents, displaced workers, those seeking retraining for new careers, and those currently enrolled at the College, attended the February 26 Open House.

“Tri-County Technical College offers something for everyone,” said Director of Recruiting and Admissions Renae Frazier, “and the Open House gave individuals a chance to find out how and where they fit in.”

The Open House offered information sessions for each of the four divisions at the College.

Guests were introduced to the College, saw program presentations, toured the campus, observed interactive department lab stations, and spoke one-on-one with instructors about career opportunities. Admissions and financial aid counselors were on hand to assist with financial aid questions and filling out the FAFSA. Information regarding athletics programs also were available.



*Alex Goulet, left, and Haley Scruggs, both of Anderson and seniors at T.L. Hanna High School, talk to Financial Aid Counselor Kevin Woods.*



*Mandy Orzechowski, an instructor in Engineering Graphics Technology, talks to Hayden Tripp and his mother, of Powdersville, about the Segway. Hayden is a junior at Wren High School.*



*Samuel Goodwin, of Central, left, won an iPod Shuffle in a door prize drawing. He is a former student who plans to return to College in the Medical Laboratory Technology program in the fall. He is pictured with Financial Aid Counselor Kevin Woods.*

## I&ET Division Showcases Programs at Invention Convention

The Industrial and Engineering Technology Division had a booth at the 12th Annual BI-LO Invention Convention held March 10 and 11 in Greenville. The BI-LO Invention Convention is open to students in grades four through eight to display their inventions that provide solutions to everyday issues. Here, Stan Compton, department head for Engineering Technology, explains to students how the Segway, a two-wheeled vehicle used for personal transportation, works. Tri-County Technical College was a premier sponsor of the event.

